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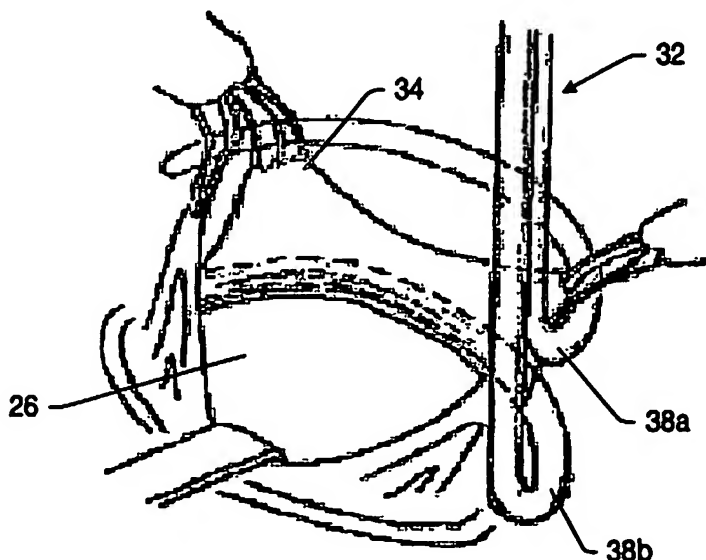
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(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR MITRAL VALVE ANNULUS REFORMATION



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus to allow a user to quickly and inexpensively repair the dilation of the mitral annulus is presented. In some embodiments, the method and apparatus should allow the user to reduce the size of the annulus to a predetermined size and allow him to secure the annulus so that it remains at the selected size. An apparatus may include a retractor. The retractor may assist in positioning a portion of the annulus. The apparatus may be part of a system including one or more fasteners. The fasteners may inhibit deformation of the reduced diameter of the mitral valve annulus. In some embodiments, the method may include incising a portion proximate to the mitral valve annulus. The method may include positioning a device through the incision, attaching the device with a plurality of attachment members, and deforming the device while observing the annulus and a surrounding area.

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